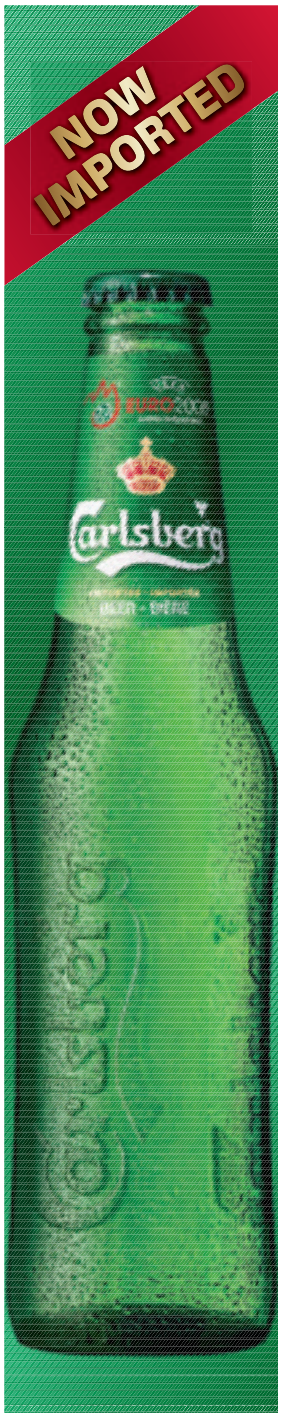
metro®

Monday, June 2, 2008 metronews.ca Toronto

enviro week inside

Earth is drying up: Barlow



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Parliament may be shut down until November
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ouch!
B.J. Ryan blows first save of season for Jays
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High 24°
Low 13°
WEATHER P. 25

Do you know English?

Rigorous test aimed at newcomers

Think you speak English? Try this test.

Find the grammatical (or syntactic) error in this sentence: The standard of living has increased.

Stumped? Soon, that will count against you if you're hoping to immigrate to Canada. The rigorous language test that will be a requirement is vital to be fair and efficient with the influx of newcomers or vastly discriminatory and fatally flawed, depending on whom you talk to.

The correct answer is: The standard of living has risen.

The grammar questions are among the trickiest in the International English Language Testing System exam, broken into 30 minutes of listening, 15 of speaking and an hour each of reading and writing. Created at Cambridge University in England, IELTS scores from one ("essentially has no ability beyond a few isolated words") to nine ("appropriate, accurate and fluent") with a six ("generally effective despite some inaccuracies") the most common pass.

The cost and the "one-size-fits-all" test alarms immigration lawyers. In a May 20 letter to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Canadian Bar Association calls the time, money and academic rigour of the test a turnoff for people who are fluent in English and French and too hard for bricklayers and plumbers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ride for Heart

Riders head south on the Don Valley Parkway yesterday during the Heart and Stroke Foundation's annual Ride for Heart. Story, page 3.

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toronto

Eight Guerrilla Gardeners hit the city's west end Saturday to seed-bomb barren, unused lands and flaunt their flower power, making Toronto's public spaces just a little greener. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

inside metro

goinggreen

earth tones
Columnists ask why golf courses are being exempt from new pesticide ban.
» 13

celebritybuzz

dubious appearance
Winehouse arrives late for first post-rehab concert, had visible cuts on left arm.
» 27

in tomorrow's metro

dating jungle
KASIA IGLINSKI talks to creator of Stories From Black Books, a play about dating.

Ride for Heart raises $3M

12,000 cyclists, skaters participate in annual event

About 12,000 cyclists and in-line skaters put their heart into pumping $3 million into medical research, social change advocacy programs and health information initiatives during yesterday's Heart and Stroke Foundation Ride for Heart.

The Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway were closed off for the event as participants cycled up to 75 kilometres for pledges in the 21st annual ride.

charity walk
» The Colon Cancer Canada annual walk also took place yesterday, at East Don Parklands.

The ride funds will help the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario support research on stroke drugs and surgical techniques, as well as 100 scientific studies and science grants, said the foundation's director of research Dr. Marco Di Buono.

Some of the medical research is geared specifically to issues of increasing rates of heart disease among post-menopausal women.

Some funding will go into ethnocentric research, according to Di Buono.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Catholic trustees asked to step down

Toronto trustees have betrayed Catholic education and should step down over the spending scandal, says the Clarington-Peterborough Catholic board in a strongly worded letter.

The seven elected trustees of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board, which includes the easternmost end of the 905, have asked their provincial representatives to put pressure on Toronto trustees to "do the right thing and allow new leadership to heal rifts in the community."

They must step aside to "re-establish confidence in Catholic education in Toronto and beyond," says their letter to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **ABORTION** The York University student council has voted in favour of a motion to ban funding to anti-abortion groups on campus. The decision means that groups promoting anti-abortion ideas will not be reimbursed by the student union, but will still be allowed to operate on campus, said the York Federation of Students. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hollywoof **High tea for special dogs**

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dogs live it up Hollywood-style yesterday at the King Edward Hotel. The furry friends were part of the second annual Doggie High Tea, which celebrates survivors of canine cancer.

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Car fire destroys shop

Blaze spreads from car to store, $500K in damages

Darko Juric watched helplessly as a fire in his car destroyed his carpentry business early yesterday.

Arson is among the causes fire investigators are probing in the $500,000 blaze that gutted the Tilps Construction woodshop, in a light industrial plaza on South Service Road, near Walker's Line in Burlington.

Flames leaped from a Jeep station wagon to a huge plywood door and quickly engulfed the unit shortly after 3 a.m.

> « *When I renegotiated the lease (of the shop) 18 months ago, they were supposed to install a steel dor. If that had been in, there would be hardly any damage.* »
>
> *Cabinet maker Darko Juric*

The roof collapsed into the shop about seven hours later as firefighters battled spot fires, damaging machines and tools Juric used to make cabinets and fine millwork. "It was so hot," said Juric, who was working alone at the time.

He said he opened a smaller door to find his car blazing outside, then dialled 911 and grabbed a fire extinguisher.

"But there was nothing I could do," he said. "It spread so fast."

The cabinet maker said he can't imagine what sparked the car fire.

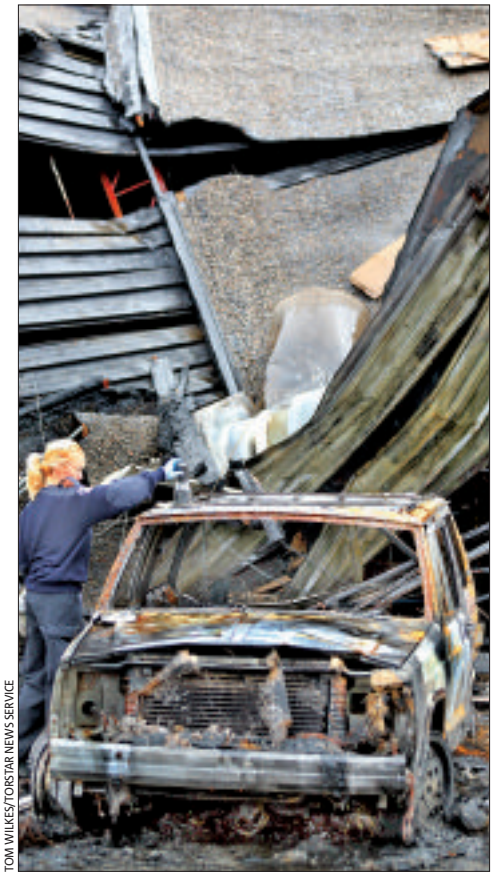
"There were just some shoes and old work clothes in there," he said. "When I renegotiated the lease on this place 18 months ago, they were supposed to install a steel door. If that had been in, there would be hardly any damage."

Forensics officers from Halton Region police were still at the scene late yesterday afternoon, collecting samples from inside the charred vehicle.

The cause of the blaze remains unknown, said Ben Rotsma of Burlington's fire service. "We're not ruling anything out at this point," he said.

Businesses on either side of the woodworking shop were also damaged as flames spread along the roofline.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



TOM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Det. Const. Sally Takacs, a forensics officer with Halton Region police, collects samples from a burned-out car outside Tilps Construction in Burlington.

HPV vaccine drive faces new challenge

Halton Catholic board motion revives debate

Providing the HPV vaccine to Grade 8 girls in its schools sends a "contradictory" message to Catholic students and should end, says a motion before Halton's Catholic board from its vice-chair.

Joanne Matters' motion, to be voted on at the board's meeting tomorrow, revives a debate that hasn't been in the news for almost a year, when Catholic boards across the province grappled with how to handle the controversy around the new vaccine.

Last September, Halton narrowly approved the vaccination program; Huron-Superior postponed it while waiting for more information.

Toronto's Catholic board, as well as Dufferin-Peel and York, allow the vaccine; some boards send information packages to parents, with a letter from Ontario bishops stressing that premarital sex is against the church's teachings.

prevention

» Gardasil is provided free to all Grade 8 girls in Ontario, and prevents the types of HPV most likely to lead to cervical cancer.

Critics have said the vaccination could lead to promiscuity. Others say the ultimate decision should lie with parents.

Last year, just more than half of all Ontario parents allowed their daughters to get the series of three shots.

Toronto is about to embark on an information blitz to parents to encourage them to have their daughters inoculated.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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»news In Brief

» **WARNING** Police are warning the public after a string of robberies outside automatic banking machines in east Toronto. There have been three cases in the past week of people being robbed at knifepoint after withdrawing money from an ATM. Two occurred outside a bank near Kingston Road and Morningside Avenue; another happened near Port Union and Lawson roads.

» **VIRUS** The city begins its fight against West Nile virus this week with the launch of its summer chemical application program. Two larvicides, Altosid and VectoLex, will be added to city catch basins known to contain mosquito larvae.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Fewer than three-quarters of Canadians believe in a god, a new poll suggests. A Harris-Decima survey found 72 per cent of respondents say they believe in a god, while 23 per cent said they did not believe in one. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recess 'scheme' expected

Tories may extend Parliament break, opposition claims

Stalled in the polls and running out of policy ideas, the federal Conservatives are certain to extend Parliament's summer break until mid-November to scuttle chances for a fall election, opposition MPs say.

Liberals and New Democrats are expecting Prime Minister Stephen Harper to delay the return of Parliament — expected to recess in the mid-June — until after the Tories' policy convention Nov. 13 to 15.

That would give the government more time to develop new ideas in a bid to repair the damage caused by last week's resignation of foreign affairs minister Maxime Bernier.

"I think it's quite plausible. That is undoubtedly a scheme they have in mind. They are clearly a government without any credible agenda," Liberal House leader Ralph Goodale (Wascana) said in an interview.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory response

» Cabinet ministers dismiss talk of an extended recess as opposition speculation. "The rumour is not true. We have no intention of proroguing," government House leader Peter Van Loan (York-Simcoe) said.

Proposed bird policy not flying with MP

Federal bureaucrats are test-flying a plan to change government regulations so companies that accidentally kill or maim migratory birds won't be punished.

But the idea is getting a chilly reception from Environment Minister John Baird, who says there's been no discussion about it with him or his cabinet colleagues.

"If people break our environmental laws there's got to be greater consequence, not less consequence," Baird said in an interview yesterday.

At issue is a suggestion by officials at Environment Canada to amend federal regulations so the department could issue a limited number of permits allowing for inadvertent deaths or injuries to birds, nests or eggs caused by human activity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

environmentalists

» The plan also has environmentalists crying foul. They say that regulations need to be stronger to help prevent more incidents like the recent death of 500 ducks in a toxic wastewater pond near Fort McMurray, Alta.

Calgary **Back from Everest summit**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andrew Brash, who successfully reached the summit Mt. Everest two weeks ago, holds his daughters Anna, right, and Jaime, as his wife Jennifer, looks on after returning home to Calgary yesterday. In 2006, Brash rescued two stranded climbers on Everest and gave up his chance of reaching the peak.

Free travel offer for military criticized

Via Rail's offer of free travel for the military throughout July has triggered a backlash, as soldiers serving in Afghanistan that month miss out on the deal but civilians back home enjoy it.

"Why has Via ... chosen to exclude the thousands of Canadian Forces members who will not qualify for this offer?" Susan Killam, whose husband is posted to Afghanistan until September, recently wrote to government officials.

"These members, currently serving in some of the world's most dangerous conflicts, deserve the same opportunity. ... These members are the very individuals which this offer should be honouring."

Killam, who lives in Hammonds Plains, N.S., says it's unfair that civilian employees will be able to take advantage of the offer while her husband is stuck in a war zone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

deal

» On March 26, Via Rail announced with great fanfare that Canadian Forces members, veterans and civilians at National Defence can enjoy free rail travel throughout July.

»news In Brief

» **HOME** A Quebec woman, who spent a week as a hostage in Haiti, flashed a wide smile and clutched loved ones after touching down in Canada. Nadia Lefebvre, 32, received a warm welcome as she greeted family and friends late Friday night at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport in Montreal.

» **KILLED** Quebec conservation officers are on the hunt for a bear that killed a 70-year-old woman. Provincial police say the victim's husband went looking for her Friday evening when she didn't return from a fishing trip near La Sarre. He found his wife's body and spotted a bear nearby.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged pedophile's trial set to begin

The brother of an accused Canadian pedophile says Christopher Neil is in "good spirits" as his trial for allegedly abusing a nine-year-old boy begins today in Thailand.

Neil, a 33-year-old schoolteacher from Maple Ridge, B.C., was arrested in Thailand last October following a worldwide manhunt.

In an interview yesterday, Matthew Neil says his brother isn't very specific about the trial in letters received by the family because his mail is censored. He also said that his brother will be represented by a court-appointed lawyer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario's Tobacco Display Ban

As of May 31, 2008, tobacco products cannot be displayed wherever tobacco products are sold or offered for sale.

What does this mean? Tobacco products must be out of view until purchased by the consumer. For more information on the Tobacco Display Ban, contact your Public Health Unit or call the INFOline toll-free at 1-866-396-1760. TTY: 1-800-387-5559. Or visit www.ontario.ca/smokefree

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Border bungling?

Audit finds paper security chaos at border stations

Thousands of blank forms used to issue work permits and other valuable documents for visitors to Canada are going missing because border officers are sloppy about security, says an audit.

Security for the forms, which are highly coveted on the black market, has been mismanaged by poorly trained staff at the Canada Border Services Agency, investigators found.

At least 44,000 of the blanks disappeared from just one office, and although most of those have been recovered 2,000 remain unaccounted for.

The audit report notes that the forms are especially valued by criminals because they can be used as identification to rip off welfare and health programs, or to secure other official documents.

Not only are the forms disappearing, but top officials at the agency have been kept in the dark about the problems.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

permits

» The blank forms are used to create work permits, study permits and temporary resident permits for qualified immigrants at major customs points, such as the airports in Toronto and Vancouver, and the land crossing at Douglas, B.C.

Bernier fallout

Couillard never informant: Cop

BIKERS A former chief investigator with Quebec provincial police says Julie Couillard was never a police informant on criminal biker gangs in the province. The Globe and Mail reported Saturday that an unnamed source close to former Hells Angels leader Maurice "Mom" Boucher said the biker boss suspected as early as 1996 that Couillard was a paid police informant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IMMIGRATION
GUIDY MAMANN
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Read 'Spousal sponsorship values are un-Canadian' on metronews.ca

Activists set to end boycott of KFC

Canadian outlets agree to changes

Following a five-year roasting by animal-rights activists, KFC Canada is promising improved welfare for the chickens it buys for its fast-food outlets in exchange for an end to a boycott campaign that will continue in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The Canadian Press has learned that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has agreed to call off its Canadian "Kentucky Fried Cruelty" campaign, which featured actress Pamela Anderson among others, following a signed agreement with the company.

Among other things, the deal obliges KFC Canada to begin buying from suppliers who use gas to kill their chickens painlessly, considered to be the least cruel method of slaughter.

Customers of the popular restaurant chain will also be able to order a vegan "chicken" item, according to the deal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

»news In Brief

» **RULING** The B.C. Supreme Court has reversed a not-guilty verdict for a man accused of putting a cat in a microwave. Justice Frank Cole ruled a provincial court judge erred and there was strong evidence the accused knew his actions would cause unnecessary pain and suffering to the cat.

» **SECURITY** A lack of information about private vessels that ply the waters between Canada and the United States is hampering efforts to thwart cross-border smugglers, warns a newly declassified intelligence report. Pleasure boats are increasingly being used to slip drugs, guns and people from one country to the other. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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world

Someone in Texas apparently had a guilty conscience, paying a parking ticket handed out 21 years before. Kenosha Police Department officers found a $6 payment for the ticket, issued Jan. 20, 1987. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Too little, too late

Clinton posts win, but Obama poised for nomination

With Barack Obama on the verge of securing the Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton swept to victory yesterday in Puerto Rico and pondered launching a divisive dustup to prolong the historic race.

She was taking Puerto Rico by two-to-one with the support of lower-income Hispanic voters. But it could be her final win with just two contests left tomorrow in Montana and South Dakota.

And her last best chance to change the course of the bruising battle was shattered over the weekend after a rancorous party meeting on seating delegates from Michigan and Florida. The weekend DNC session left Obama just 65 delegates short of the 2,118 he needs to win the prize. THE CANADIAN PRESS

quits church

» Barack Obama has resigned his 20 year membership in the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago in the aftermath of inflammatory remarks by his longtime pastor the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

California **Not a disaster movie**

ANDREW GOMBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A firefighter walks past a studio lot destroyed from a fire yesterday at Universal Studios in Universal City, Calif. The fire destroyed a set from Back To The Future, a King Kong exhibit, a streetscape seen frequently in movies and TV shows, as well as thousands of videos chronicling Universal's movie and TV shows.

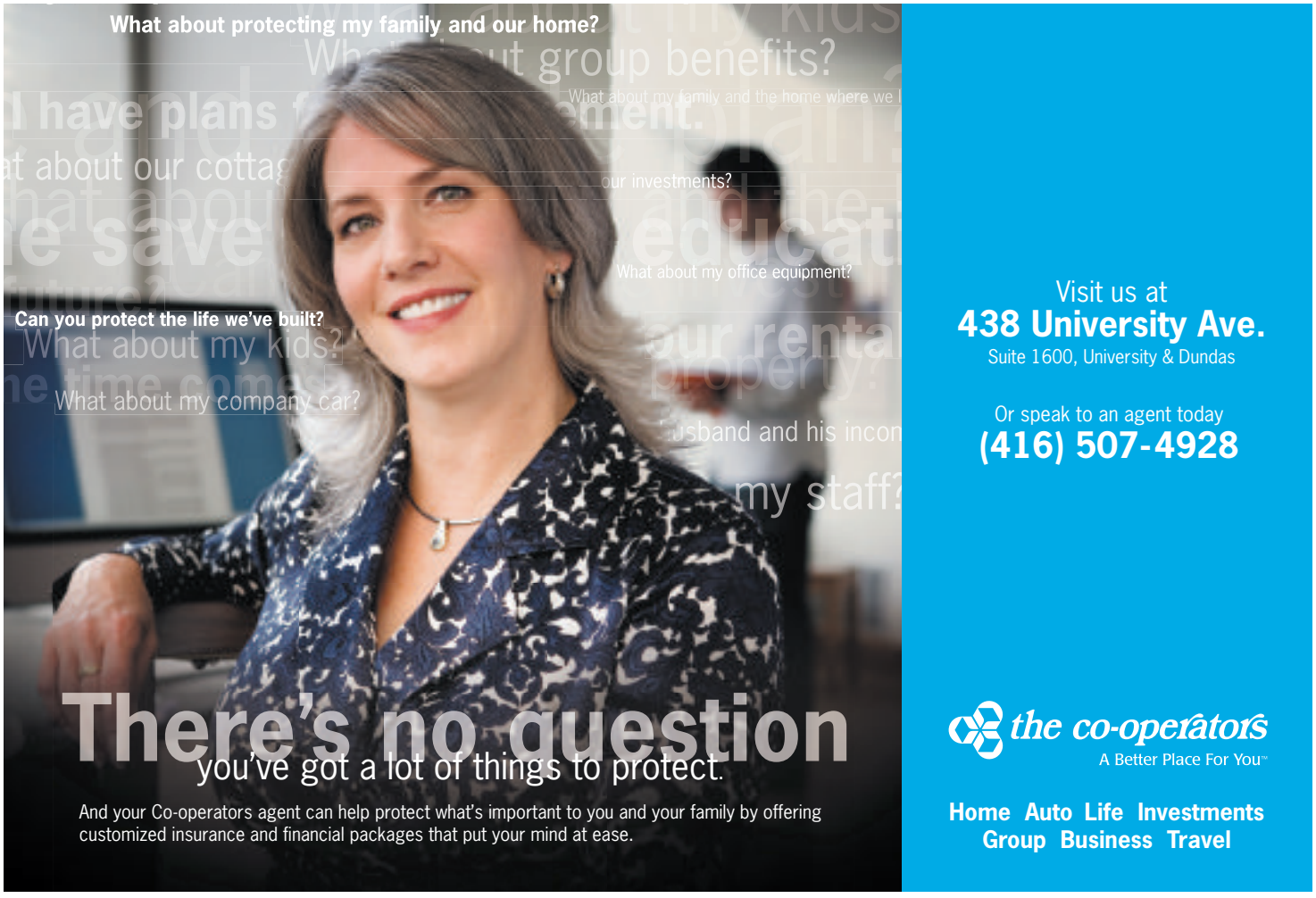
»news In Brief

» **AFGHANISTAN** U.S. marines clawed their way south along the Helmand River valley in Afghanistan over the weekend in an ongoing push the commander of the battle-hardened assault force hopes is easing the pressure on the Canadians in neighbouring Kandahar.

» **CIGARETTES** Britain's Department of Health has released proposals that would ban cigarette companies from putting any kind of logo or branding onto their cigarette packets. Cigarette manufacturers would have to sell cigarettes in plain black-and-white boxes with nothing but health warnings written on them.

» **CHINA** Authorities were evacuating the last of some 200,000 people yesterday from the path of waters threatening to spill from a lake formed when China's May 12 earthquake blocked the Tongkou River with a landslide. But after weeks of chaos and uncertainty, some were reluctant to be uprooted again.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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business

In France, a gallon of gasoline now costs about $9.66, which works out to about $2.54 a litre. Americans pay about $4-a-gallon, and Turkey more than $11. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV fund changing?

Regulator ready to issue report on $280M fund

background

» The CTF was thrown into disarray more than a year ago after two key contributors, Shaw Communications and Videotron, suspended their payments, triggering a study into the complaints and public hearings in early February.

The CRTC is widely expected this week to recommend changing the way most Canadian television programs are financed to give greater weight to the mass appeal of shows over their cultural or social attributes.

But reforming the Canadian Television Fund in response to private sector sponsors' complaints that not enough Canadians watch home-grown television could carry a catch — those most dissatisfied with the fund pay more into the reformed CTF

The regulator is expected to issue its report on the $280-million fund Thursday, after which Heritage Minister Josee Verner must decide what needs to be done to fix a system many in broadcasting believe works just fine as it is. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. automakers in crisis mode

Gas prices have accelerated the move away from trucks and sport utility vehicles, leaving North America's Big Three at the most critical crossroads in 30 years.

"In the early '70s, we were caught flat-footed, without smaller, fuel-efficient cars. We had nothing to sell," said Gerald Meyers, a former chairman of American Motors Corp. "That's exactly what's happening now."

As of April, sales of large pickups were down 17 per cent and large SUVs 29 per cent, while sales of subcompacts jumped 33 per cent and the Toyota Prius hybrid up 23 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No plastic **Ban on bags**

ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A girl leaves a supermarket in Beijing yesterday carrying bottles of soft drinks by hand as a ban on ultra-thin plastic bags came into effect yesterday. Chinese retailers will no longer provide free plastic bags in a bid to reduce energy consumption and polluting emissions.

Ford won't close more plants: Exec

Ford Motor Co. has no plans at present for further U.S. plant closures despite a dramatic drop in demand for pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles, a top company executive said Friday.

But Joe Hinrichs, group vice-president of global manufacturing, also told reporters, that it makes no sense to have five factories making trucks and sport utility vehicles on one shift each. Hinrichs said the company's long-term choices are to either add production to the plants or close some of them.

But the company, he said, plans to honour a commitment to the United Auto Workers during contract talks last year not to close more plants.

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bank earnings

Second-quarter profits cut in half

LOSS Canada's six biggest banks had their earnings cut nearly in half in the second quarter as weaker results in capital markets, deteriorating credit market conditions and a huge loss at CIBC sent the group's profits tumbling to $2.47 billion.

It's a stark decline from the $4.7 billion profit reported a year earlier during headier times for the economy and credit markets and when the financial sector was coasting along after record results in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recession looms

Economy shrinks for first time in 5 years: StatsCan

The Canadian economy may be sinking into recession after taking a major hit in the first three months of the year thanks to Ontario's beleaguered auto industry.

The economy shrank unexpectedly for the first time in five years, according to figures released Friday by Statistics Canada, edging down by 0.3 per cent and raising alarm among some economists that the economy is on the verge of contracting.

It was the first quarterly decline since the second quarter of 2003, the federal agency said. Analysts had expected the economy to grow by as much as 0.4 per cent.

One definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of declining growth. But Carolyn Kwan, senior economist and strategist at Merrill Lynch Canada, cautioned while the GDP numbers are bleak, the Canadian economy is still fundamentally healthy, based on the most recent income and employment data. "The definition of a recession might be met in the next quarter, but the environment might not be recessionary," she said.

BMO Nesbitt Burns deputy chief economist Doug Porter said the GDP figure is bleaker than the reality since real incomes are up in the first quarter by 3.7 per cent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

rate cut?

» The weak results raised expectations the Bank of Canada may cut interest rates once more this month by another 25 basis points to bolster the economy.

Bell defends move to throttle Internet

Warns of serious service shortfall

Bell Canada Inc. has submitted detailed information to regulators in support of its controversial practice of "throttling" certain types of Internet traffic, a move the phone company argues is necessary to relieve congestion on its network.

The phone giant claims to have offered proof to the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission that sniffing out and slowing down bandwidth-intensive peer-to-peer file-sharing protocols is necessary to prevent a serious degradation in Internet service for some 700,000 users within less than a year.

While Bell acknowledges the "most logical solution" to fix network congestion is building additional capacity, Mirko Bibic, Bell's chief of regulatory affairs, said doing so would be uneconomical since much of it would go unused during non-peak periods.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

background

» Bell began implementing traffic shaping measures for its retail customers last October between 4:30 p.m. and 2 a.m. when traffic on its network is highest. Rogers Communications also employs similar techniques.

»news In Brief

» **RATIFIED** Approximately 5,000 Bell Canada technicians in Ontario and Quebec represented by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada have ratified a new five-year contract. The affected CEP members had rejected two previous tentative agreements, most recently in April. The agreement was approved by 59 per cent of the technicians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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sports

Usain Bolt, left, is now the world's fastest man. The Jamaican runner, who doesn't even consider the 100 metres his best race, set the world record Saturday night with a time of 9.72 seconds, .02 seconds faster than the old record held by his countryman, Asafa Powell. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays waste Burnett's gem

Ryan blows his first save of the season

ANGELS 4 BLUE JAYS 3

It's what you want if you're the Jays — to enter the ninth with a one-run lead and your bullpen ace on the mound, needing just three outs to seal the deal. Instead, yesterday at Angels Stadium, with the bases loaded and two outs, B.J. Ryan hit a batter to tie the game, then allowed a bloop single for the Angels win. It was his first blown save in 13 attempts as the Angels scored two runs in a 4-3 win.

"(Ryan's) been unbelievable, plus you consider where he came from (physically)," Jays' manager John Gibbons said. "We had some opportunities (to score) but it didn't happen. We still had a chance to get out of the game in the ninth."

Just 13 months removed from Tommy John surgery to his left elbow, Ryan loaded the bases on an intentional walk to Mike Napoli with one out. Clinging to the 3-2 lead, he struck out pinch-hitter Juan Rivera on a high fastball, but then nailed Howie Kendrick with a riding fastball in on the hands. Ryan argued it was a foul ball. Maicer Izturis then lobbed a single in front of right-fielder Brad Wilkerson to end the contest.

Earlier that inning, with runners at the corners, and on a soft grounder to Lyle Overbay, the Jays nailed Vladimir Guerrero in a rundown with Barajas applying the tag at third. Barajas pump-faked to second, then dove at Torii Hunter's legs, applying the tag to his ankle as he fell on the base. He was called safe. That would have been the second out.

The blown save spoiled a brilliant eight-inning outing by A.J. Burnett. The Jays' righthander allowed a two-run homer to second baseman Sean Rodriguez as the only damage in a 102-pitch, eight-strikeout performance.

"I threw it where he could hit it," Burnett described the homer. "That's the only bad pitch I made all day."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RIC FRANCIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher A.J. Burnett went eight innings, allowing only three hits and two runs while striking out eight in yesterday's game against the Los Angeles Angels. But the Angels came back to win the game 4-3 in the bottom of the ninth.

Vanderjagt returns to his roots

Mike Vanderjagt's kicking career has officially come full circle.

The Oakville, Ont., native took part in the first Toronto Argonauts practice of the season yesterday, one day after signing with the team that helped propel him to stardom in 1996.

Vanderjagt

Vanderjagt returns to the CFL following a successful — and at times controversial — NFL career that saw him become the most accurate field-goal kicker in league history.

More than a decade after leaving the Argos for the fame and fortune of the NFL, Vanderjagt said he was thrilled to be back in the double blue. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pens hanging on by a thread

Pittsburgh facing elimination tonight

As Darryl Sydor sat answering questions about the Pittsburgh Penguins' do-or-die situation, he was fingering his 1999 Dallas Stars Stanley Cup ring.

He did it partly out of habit, partly out of nerves, but mostly to send a message, to his teammates and to himself.

"That's what I've always done, I've always worn my rings in the playoffs," said Sydor. "Just kind of reminds me of how hard it is to try and get these."

To get another ring now, the task before Sydor and the Penguins is monumental: Win the next three before Detroit wins one — starting tonight with Game 5 at the Joe Louis Arena.

"We know what we have to do," said Penguins captain Sidney Crosby. "We've got to win to stay alive. It's pretty clear and simple. So that's the way we're looking at it. We're going to be desperate here (tonight). And all we focus on is winning that game."

Instead of focusing, though, the Penguins seem to be finding ways to distract themselves.

Coach Michel Therrien, already labelled a whiner by some for moaning about the way the referees are calling the game, is growing irritated with the media, bristling at the notion Crosby doesn't play enough.

Crosby is getting increasingly involved in post-whistle scrums, the latest being a chat-fest with Henrik Zetterberg after Detroit's win in Game 4 and a third period in which the Penguins failed to get even a shot on net during a 5-on-3 power play.

Evgeni Malkin finds himself under immense scrutiny having failed to register even a point in the final and not having any impact since Game 1 of the Eastern Conference final.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tennis **Jankovic moves on at French Open**

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No. 3 seed Jelena Jankovic overcame a shoulder injury to defeat No. 21 seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-3, 7-6 (3) in a fourth-round match at the French Open yesterday. No. 2 seed Ana Ivanovic also advanced with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Petra Cetkovska.

golf

Perry wins third Memorial tourney

PGA Kenny Perry joined Tiger Woods as the only three-time winner of the Memorial yesterday.

He finished at 8-under 280 and earned $1.08 million US for his 10th career victory.

Weir

Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., finished in a four-way tie for second, two strokes behind Perry. Jon Mills of Oshawa, Ont., finished tied for 26th.

rowing

Canada wins four medals at World Cup

REGATTA Canadian rowers won four medals yesterday, a pair of gold by the men and two bronze by the women, at the Lucerne World Cup regatta at Lake Rotsee in Switzerland.

Both the men's eights, the reigning world champion, and Scott Frandsen of Victoria and Dave Calder of Kelowna, B.C., in the pairs, led from start to finish in their races.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL
PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT
Game 4 — Saturday's result
Detroit 2 Pittsburgh 1
Game 5 — Tonight
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
*Game 6 — Wednesday
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 8
*Game 7 — Saturday, June 7
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
(Detroit leads series 3-1)
(* – if necessary)

PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

Name, team	G	A	P
Crosby, Pgh	6	18	24
Zetterberg, Det	12	11	23
Mari.Hossa, Pgh	10	12	22
Datsyuk, Det	9	11	20
Malkin, Pgh	9	10	19
Franzen, Det	13	4	17
Ribeiro, Dal	3	14	17
Briere, Pha	9	7	16
Malone, Pgh	6	10	16

NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
BOSTON VS. DETROIT
Game 6 — Friday's result
Boston 89 Detroit 81
(Boston wins series 4-2)
WESTERN CONFERENCE
L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO
(L.A. Lakers win series 4-1)
NBA FINALS
BOSTON VS. L.A. LAKERS
Game 1 — Thursday
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 9
Game 2 — Sunday
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 9 p.m.
Game 3 — Tuesday, June 10
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 9
Game 4 —Thursday, June 12
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 9
Game 5 —Sunday, June 15
*Boston at L.A. Lakers, 9
Game 6 — Tuesday, June 17
*L.A. Lakers at Boston, 9 p.m.
Game 7 —Thursday, June 19
*L.A. Lakers at Boston, 9
(* – if necessary)

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	35	22	.614	—
Boston	35	24	.593	1
TORONTO	31	28	.525	5
N.Y. Yankees	28	28	.500	6½
Baltimore	26	29	.473	8
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago Sox	30	26	.536	—
Minnesota	29	27	.518	1
Cleveland	25	31	.446	5
Detroit	24	32	.429	6
Kansas City	23	34	.404	7½
WEST DIVISION				
L.A. Angels	34	24	.586	—
Oakland	30	27	.526	3½
Texas	29	29	.500	5
Seattle	21	36	.368	12½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
EAST DIVISION				
Philadelphia	33	25	.569	—
Florida	31	24	.564	½
Atlanta	29	28	.509	3½
New York	27	27	.500	4
Washington	24	34	.414	9
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago Cubs	36	21	.632	—
St. Louis	34	24	.586	2½
Houston	30	28	.517	6½
Milwaukee	29	28	.509	7
Cincinnati	28	29	.491	8
Pittsburgh	26	30	.464	9½
WEST DIVISION				
Arizona	32	25	.561	—
Los Angeles	27	28	.491	4
San Francisco	24	33	.421	8
San Diego	23	35	.397	9½
Colorado	20	37	.351	12

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
L.A. Angels 4 TORONTO 3
Detroit 7 Seattle 5
Boston 9 Baltimore 4
Kansas City 6 Cleveland 1
Minnesota 5 N.Y. Yankees 1
Oakland 13 Texas 8
Tampa Bay 4 Chicago White Sox 3 (10)
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Arizona 5 Washington 0
Chicago Cubs 5 Colorado 3
Cincinnati 6 Atlanta 2
Milwaukee 10 Houston 1
Philadelphia 7 Florida 5
San Francisco 4 San Diego 3 (10 ings)
St. Louis 7 Pittsburgh 4
L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets
TODAY'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston at Baltimore, 7:05
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 7:10
Cleveland at Texas, 8:05
Detroit at Oakland, 10:05
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 10:10
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 7:05
Florida at Atlanta, 7:10
Arizona at Milwaukee, 8:05
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 8:15
Chicago Cubs at San Diego, 10:05
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco, 10:15

MLS

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:
SATURDAY'S RESULT
TORONTO 2 Los Angeles 0

LOTTERIES

Friday, May 30, 2008

Lotto Super 7	16, 24, 30, 32, 34, 37 & 40. Bonus 5.
Ontario Pick 3	3 1 8
Ontario Pick 4	6 2 1 8
Encore	8654178
Daily Keno	1, 2, 8, 13, 19,24, 25, 31, 36, 39, 45, 49, 50, 53, 54,57, 58, 60, 65, 70.

Saturday, May 31, 2008

Lotto 6/49	2, 9, 11, 22, 34 & 35. Bonus 26.
Ontario 49	5, 8, 18, 26, 27 27 & 43. Bonus 42.
Lottario	13, 25, 31, 33, 36 & 37. Bonus 9.
Early bird	2, 15, 22 & 28.
Ontario Pick 3	2 2 6
Ontario Pick 4	8 0 5 7
Encore	0507947
Daily Keno	1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 25, 26, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 59, 61, 70.

Sunday, June 1, 2008

Ontario Pick 3	4 9 1
Ontario Pick 4	7 4 4 2
Encore	9710738
Daily Keno	2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 13, 27, 31, 45, 47, 50, 51, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 63, 64, 67.

Results not official

»sports In Brief

» **MOTOR SPORTS** Kyle Busch dominated the second half of the 400-mile race yesterday at Dover International Speedway, racing to his NASCAR Sprint Cup series-best fourth win of the season.

» **GOLF** Seon Hwa Lee came from nine shots back and won the LPGA's Ginn Tribute yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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going green

Do you have a problem with slugs? Instead of using harmful chemicals, try using beer in shallow bowls or sprinkle crushed eggshells or oat bran on the ground to get rid of the slugs. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New pesticide ban has some holes

Golf courses won't be included

It's a sight and smell we remember from childhood. The sickly sweet chemical smell in the air and the menacing signs warning you not to set foot on the grass. This is part of the quest for a perfect, green and dandelion-free lawn.

EARTH TONES
SOPHIA DORE & ANDREW LAURSEN
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These sights and smells should be a relic of the past by next year when the Ontario government's pesticide ban goes into effect.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians has said the long-term effects of exposure to pesticides can be devastating, especially to pregnant women and children, leading to learning disabilities and birth defects. Pesticides (and herbicides) have also been implicated in leukemia in children. These are some seriously bad chemicals that should not be used just to maintain the artificial environment of the lawn.

This ban will prohibit pesticide (and herbicide) use for all purposes except farming, managed forestry, and golf courses. Farmers, we concede, need this exemption. Organic farming is great in principle, however, as currently practised it requires greater land area for food production and would require a drastic change in farming practices that many farmers do not have the resources to make. The food infrastructure would suffer a serious hit if pesticides and herbicides were suddenly banned. We are all for decreasing their use on farms, however, quitting cold turkey on short notice is probably not the way to go. Ditto forestry — it probably needs time to phase these chemicals out.

So pesticides and herbicides are necessary to farmers because changes in farming practices must be gradual and well-managed to ensure the security of the food supply — and they are necessary to golf courses because ... um ... well, we don't know. We should state right from the get-go that we don't golf. However, we do breathe and drink water so that's our stake in this argument.

Why should golf courses get an exemption? Why is it so important they be weed-free?

Golf courses with their acres of perfectly manicured lawns account for much of the non-agricultural pesticide use in Ontario, and probably the country. Is it really so vital that a monoculture of grass is maintained on golf courses? The greens are kept severely mowed, so would it matter so much if some of the little green spikes were dandelions or clover or crab grass? Would Tiger Woods suddenly start shooting above par?

Lots of athletes play in adverse conditions. Professional sports (with the exception of football) are generally played under ideal conditions, however, amateur athletes, like the vast majority of golfers, play and enjoy playing in the real world. Pond hockey players skate around the partly submerged tree that sticks out of the ice or the rough patch where the ice got ruffled. Soccer, football and baseball players come home wet and covered in mud. Tennis down at the local park often involves cracked concrete and torn nets. Would golf be less enjoyable in the presence of weeds?

Many golfers say that what they enjoy about the game is spending time outdoors. So golfers, it's up to you. If you would like to get back to nature, weeds and all while you play, let your golf course know it should start planning to go pesticide free.

Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University, studying ecosystem ecology. Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, an environmental consulting company.

Eco-friendly ways to fight weeds and insects

A common problem in many gardens is weed and insect infestations. Not only is it important to know how to effectively treat your garden to keep it pest and disease free, it is also becoming increasingly more important to find alternatives to traditional chemical practices.

To care for a healthier garden all summer long, the lawn and garden team at Canadian Tire has the following integrated pest control steps and techniques.

TIPS TO PEST PREVENTION

» Add good soil with ample depth and organic matter for nutrition

» Improve drainage in wet areas and/or replace lawns with other types of landscaping

» Check lawns and gardens regularly for first signs of insect, weed and plant disease. Unfortunately, many of the stages of pest disease occur below the surface of the lawn, which can be difficult to monitor. However, you can look for signs such as brown spots or already dead or dying patches of lawn that pull up easily for signs of disease

» Remove diseased leaves, plants and branches to eliminate rotting organic matter. Choose an ergonomic product such as Fiskars telescopic stand-up weeder to help protect your back

USE REDUCED-RISK SOLUTIONS

» If preventive and mechanical approaches to solving a pest problem have been unsuccessful, consider using a reduced-risk pest control product first

USE PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS IF NECESSARY

» Before resorting to using a pesticide, consider all your alternatives such as physical methods like hand weeding, before resorting to chemical solutions. NEWS CANADA

»news In Brief

» **ZOO** An exhibit housing lion-tailed macaques at the Toronto Zoo will be retrofitted with green technology in the hopes of reducing emissions, saving money and educating the public at the major tourist attraction, Ontario Energy Minister Gerry Phillips said Friday. The province will contribute money from its Community Conservation Initiative to help fund a geothermal energy system.

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Earth 'drying up'

Award winner Barlow talks to Metro about the global water crisis

By **BRIAN TOWIE**
Metro Toronto

Leave it to the unsinkable Maude Barlow to protest an award she's about to receive.

The national chairperson for one of the nation's biggest citizen activist groups, The Council of Canadians, is indeed grateful for the Citation of Lifetime Achievement that she'll accept at the Canadian Environment Awards in Toronto tonight for her work in raising awareness about the growing global water crisis. However, she says there should be demonstrators outside the gala protesting Shell — activists who argue the presence of the oil company and award sponsor is a travesty against the global climate change fight — and she will show her solidarity by joining them arm-in-arm.

As one of the few energy companies in support of the Kyoto Accord, Barlow notes Shell has made some progressive strides, but she still has some major concerns, among them being its coal-bed methane operations in northern B.C. and its history in Nigeria.

"I will support the demonstrators outside if they are there. I don't see it as a choice: You can go inside and accept the award but at the same time make a statement, which is what I'll do," says the author of Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis And The Coming Battle For The Right To Water. "You can be critical of these corporations and advance the work together. I think I'll be doing inside-outside support."

Barlow plans to address several hackle-raising subjects during her acceptance speech. The main ones include the danger of the corporate takeover of water systems and the government's enthusiastic plans to sell off Canadian water resources to an already thirsty U.S. — adding the Bush administration and the Pentagon have been getting advice from Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons manufacturer, on how to appropriate water from sources outside its borders.

Barlow also wants Canada to recognize water as a fundamental human right at the United Nations, and she doesn't buy Ottawa's argument to the contrary, saying she can't imagine a more willing vendor than the Harper government.

"Our government says if water is a human right, we'll be forced to sell it to Americans, which is crazy," Barlow says.

"A human right is for people who are dying, it's not to provide golf courses or swimming pools to wealthy people. It's just an excuse: The real reason Canada is opposing the right to water at the UN is because in NAFTA we have supported water as a tradeable good. And it would be a true contradiction — which I think would be great, but they don't think would be great — if we were to say it was a right."

The lack of potable water is an emergency for many parts of the globe, says Barlow, and an award ceremony such as this is an opportunity for her to get the word out that this predicament could reach Canadians sooner than they might think.

"The Earth is kind of like an apple that's green in some parts, but it has brown spots where it's drying up. We have to have this image in our minds," she said. "We have to live differently. We have to grow our food differently. We have to stop assuming technology is going to solve everything, because it isn't. We have to protect our public water systems. This, to me, is an emergency that equals climate change any day. I do what I can to sound the alarm and get this information out to the world."

what are the Canadian Environment Awards?

The Canadian Environment Awards celebrate the people behind grassroots hands-on environmental initiatives happening across Canada, and their efforts to reduce waste and educate their communities.

The accolades are well-deserved, says award-winning writer Rick Boychuk, panelist for the gala and editor-in-chief of Canadian Geographic Magazine, which founded the awards gala in 2002. He says activists, especially those working to fight climate change, constantly face uphill battles.

"Funding for what they do is always a challenge," says Boychuk. "Research is as well: Getting your hands on reliable scientific information. And keep in mind these people are volunteers; they take time out of their 9-to-5 lives to do this."

» For more on the gala, visit *www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea2008/home.asp*.

Activist Maude Barlow will receive the Citation of Lifetime Achievement at the Canadian Environment Awards gala in Toronto tonight.

going against the flow

Below are Maude Barlow's tips on what you can do to save water:

» Don't buy bottled water, says Barlow. "It's a scam. It's sitting in plastic, which is made up of fossil fuels and chemicals. Go back to regulated and tested tap water. Last year, we put something like 200 billion litres of water in plastic bottles around the world. Ninety-five per cent of those did not get recycled. This is insane. It's not acceptable."

» Notify your provincial and federal politicians that you support the campaign for a National Water Act — which would set national water standards, map out ground water supplies and ban the commercial export of water (*www.RightToWater.ca*).

» Use low-flow showerheads, washing machines and dishwashers. BRIAN TOWIE/METRO TORONTO

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Commuters challenged

Canadian cities, people compete to save kilometres

By **ERIC EMIN WOOD**
for Metro Toronto

If you're like most commuters, you'll spend another $183 driving your car to and from work this week. Sponsored by Telus, the National Commuter Challenge — in which cities across the country compete until June 7 to save kilometres — aims to change that.

"It's an opportunity for people to try something outside of their single-occupant vehicles," says Kathryn Winkler, chair of the National Commuter Challenge and founder and executive director of the Sustainable Alberta Association, which runs the Calgary program.

"I've been a commuter cyclist forever," says Winkler. "And in 1993, I was moving to a new job in Calgary and somebody mentioned there was this little challenge going on, so I got my workplace involved."

In 1999, those same participants thought it would be fun to challenge another city. "So we set up an organization," says Winkler, "and in 2000 we launched the first national challenge among cities across the country."

This week, commuters are being challenged to walk, bike, carpool or take public transit.

The challenge encourages commuters to walk, bike, take public transportation or carpool during Environment Week this week. Other participating cities include Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, London and Halifax. "Everyone across the country can participate," says Winkler, "and if they're not, they can just go to the website."

> « *It's an opportunity for people to try something outside of their single-occupant vehicles.* » *Kathryn Winkler*

Last year, the challenge had 170 communities and 1,757 workplaces participating, representing 37,703 Canadians.

"It's a fun event, but in trying to find your way to work, taking the bus, or getting there by bike, you're actually giving yourself an option once the event is finished," says Winkler. "Quite often, the largest barrier is that people don't know where their bus routes are, where to park their bike, or that you've got a person two blocks away going to the exact same place as you. So if you do it for a day or especially a week, by the end you have all the information you need to make that other choice."

As of press time, 534 communities and 3,962 workplaces, comprising 14,738 individuals have registered so far and a total of 17,990 kilometres have been saved.

» For statistical updates or to register, check out the National Commuter Challenge's website at *www.commuterchallenge.ca*.

environment week explained

» According to the current Conservative government, Environment Week — which was created by the Trudeau government in 1971 — is all about preserving the natural benefits Canadians enjoy, with the added bonus of "strengthening the economy ... enhancing health and quality of life."

Events tied to the week from all across the country can be found on the Environment Canada Website (*www.ec.gc.ca*), on its Community Action Board. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Zerofootprint puts focus on city's carbon emissions

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOW**
for Metro Toronto

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO TORONTO

Ron Dembo, founder of Zerofootprint.

In the fight against climate change, a Toronto company is proving actions speak louder than words.

Nominated for a Canadian Environment Award, Zerofootprint helps businesses manage and reduce their carbon emissions while simultaneously giving average Canadians the tools and knowledge to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Company founder Ron Dembo says Zerofootprint has always been about making change happen rather than just playing lip service to environmental issues.

"If you want to do social change, creating awareness is not the way to go. It's important but not sufficient for change. Social change comes by setting examples and doing things," Dembo said.

The company's newest project, run in tandem with the City of Toronto and co-signed with Mayor David Miller, is to upgrade and renew the 2,000 residential towers sprouting within the city to reduce the amount of carbon needed to run them. The towers, many of which are grossly energy-inefficient, currently consume 20 per cent of the city's residential power. Zerofootprint expects its renewal program to make the buildings 50 per cent more energy-efficient and help rejuvenate the environment directly surrounding each tower.

For average consumers interested in learning about how to shrink their own carbon footprint, *www.zerofootprint.net* lets people create a Personal Carbon Manager account, which tracks their carbon footprints. Zerofootprint developed a similar site for manufacturing giant Unilever that lets people calculate and reduce their water consumption.

"We empower people by showing how small changes can make a big difference," said Deborah Kaplan, Zerofootprint's executive director.

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workology

Accountemps recently cited seven common job search mistakes, one of them being: Failing to thank others: Express appreciation to everyone who helps you in your job search, whether or not their efforts on your behalf are successful. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A new route to indie music

Course lets you take industry out of music

By **BRIAN COULTON**
for Metro Toronto

Seneca College offers a program for musicians who want to make it on their own.

The garage band used to be a group of kids banging drums and grazing guitar strings after school. Then, Apple came along and digitized it, claiming GarageBand as a new, home-based way to mix music. Now, Toronto's Seneca College is taking both translations, combining layman leisure with indie ability in a program that's taking the industry out of the music.

Its two-semester Independent Music Production (IMP) program assumes a garage band passion for music but adds the professionalism acting program coordinator John Switzer says is necessary for students to make a living as musicians.

"The program is based on the whole idea of being the musician — someone who doesn't look for a manager, record company and producer to come help them and take them under their wing, but who wants to do it themselves."

Switzer says the program places equal emphasis on the trio of audio production, musicianship and the music business, noting the integration as being what sets it apart from other, less varied programs. But it's also the diversity that defines the hefty expectations prospective students face.

"If you don't have musical talent, we can't really help you at this point," he laughs. "Go take some guitar lessons." Switzer's matter-of-factness is warranted. The IMP program admits only 20 students each term and applicants for the September 2008 semester exceeded 250. "If you've already got some talent but are wondering how to make a living doing it, that's where we come in," he says.

Daniel Rojas-Orrego, who also goes by El Machetero, had musical talent but was lacking on the business end. "My music and creation is what I live for but at the same time, what I make back financially does not even match what goes into it," says the current IMP student, 33.

He decided to return to school to correct the imbalance, having struggled as an independent hip-hop and spoken word artist for nearly a decade.

"The music business is a very small percentage music and a very large percentage business," says Rojas-Orrego. He was motivated by his urge to know the rules and conventions of the business, which he says the program taught him.

"This has enabled me to be able to follow the rules when I want to and break them knowingly."

advice

» For students considering what he calls an intense experience, Rojas-Orrego advises treating music with the seriousness of any other profession and remaining open to direction. "For a lot of young people, they think what they're doing has never been done before. That's not always true. It's very important to learn from people who have been there doing it longer than you have."

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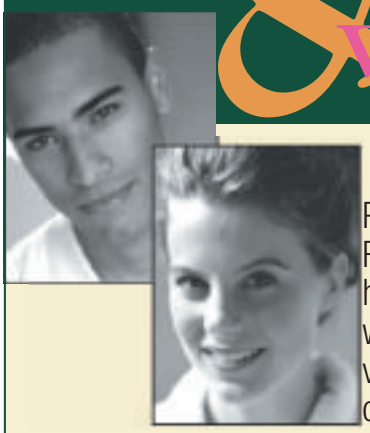
Step 2: Swivel your entire body to the right with knees facing right.

Step 3: Keep your right knee bent, straighten your left knee as you press your left heel into the ground.

Step 4: Lift both arms up above your head- pressing the fingers up to the sky, keeping the arms long and straight.

Relax the shoulders, neck and jaw and take five deep breaths. Repeat on other side.

men & women



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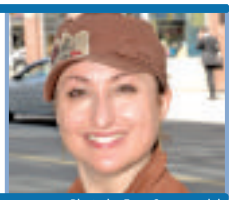

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» Traditional:

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» Risk-taker:

Are you someone who likes to take risks and needs very little guidance when doing something? This personality type is very straight-forward. Challenging the status quo is what its all about for the risk-taker. This is where many great business ideas are born.

Check back in future issues of Metro for more personality types and how to capitalize on yours.

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entertainment

Actress Holly Hunter, left, was immortalized with the 2,363rd star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday. E! NEWS ONLINE

weekend box office

» Estimated weekend ticket sales for U.S. and Canadian theatres:
» 1. Sex And The City, $55.7 million US
» 2. Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull, $46 million
» 3. The Strangers, $20.7 million
» 4. Iron Man, $14 million
» 5. Prince Caspian, $13 million
» 6. What Happens In Vegas, $6.9 million
» 7. Baby Mama, $2.2 million
» 8. Speed Racer, $2.1 million
» 9. Made Of Honor, $2 million
» 10. Forgetting Sarah Marshall, $1 million REUTERS

Idol touts talent gains

Producer, judge say pool one of the best in years

By SANDY CAETANO
Metro Toronto

Another season of Canadian Idol starts tomorrow and the talk among insiders is this will be the most talented group yet.

Canadian Idol executive producer John Brunton says this year's group is the strongest the singing competition has ever seen.

Sure, we've heard this before, but Brunton says he can't stress how true this fact really is this year.

"It will sound like it's a cliché, that this is the best season of talent we've ever had … and everybody will say, 'Well, you say that every year, don't you?'" Brunton tells Metro. "I haven't said that every year, and I think one of our strongest overall years of talent was Season 2 with Kalan (Porter) and Jacob (Hoggard) and Theresa (Sokyrka)."

This year's auditions drew musicians from places such as Los Angeles and London, England. These are people who have been gaining enough success to get them gigs and allow them to get their names known in the music industry.

"These were not the types of people who would normally turn out for our show in the early years, but (it's) the credibility and also the fact that it's so difficult to get a record deal these days," says Brunton. "We've cut a good 50 people that in previous seasons may have made the top 22 … we really have an interesting group and for a whole bunch of different reasons."

Canadian Idol judge Jake Gold echoes Brunton's opinions regarding this year's competitors.

"The problem is that every time we say it's better than the year before, people go, 'Yeah, you're supposed to say that,'" says Gold. "But the reality is on an overall basis, it's like miles above any other year. It's not just, 'Oh it's better,' it's like a whole other level of better."

The challenge though came down to the final day where Gold and fellow judges Farley Flex, Sass Jordan and Zack Werner chose the top 22 this year.

"We actually sat down and said, 'How can we actually, in good conscience, send this person home?' and it was that difficult," he says. "There's an overall confidence among them that we've never seen before. This level of knowing who they are and the fact that they're very sure of themselves."

Host Ben Mulroney
CTV PHOTO

Canadians shine at MTV awards

By SANDY CAETANO
Metro Toronto

It was a night for Canadian actors to shine as Ellen Page captured an early win for Juno and Mike Myers took the reins as host of last night's 2008 MTV Movie Awards.

Myers, best known for his portrayal of Austin Powers, kicked off the gala event with a dance-off between himself and singer Chris Brown at the Gibson Amphitheatre in California.

Myers also managed to shamelessly promote his upcoming film The Love Guru and brought back Dana Carvey for a Wayne's World reunion skit.

Hancock's Charlize Theron, Will Smith and Jason Bateman presented Page with the golden popcorn for best female performance for her role in Juno.

"It's not every day that you get a golden popcorn from Charlize Theron, Will Smith and Jason Bateman," said Page. "This was just a little movie we made and it was because of everyone that went to see it that made it what it was."

Best comedic performance was awarded to Johnny Depp for Walt Disney Pictures' Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End. Depp beat out Adam Sandler, Jonah Hill, Amy Adams and Canadian Seth Rogen.

"Popcorn. Thank you very much. I'm not really sure how this happened. You can ask anybody, I'm not a very funny person … this is very sweet," said Depp, who also won in the category of best villain for Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street.

Other wins included Iron Man's director John Favreau and Robert Downey Jr. for best summer movie you have seen, while best male performance went to I Am Legend's Will Smith.

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american idol

Cook reaps download gold

MUSIC David Cook's American Idol win is already paying dividends on the music charts.

The 25-year-old singer raked in 942,000 digital downloads in just a week, according to figures released Thursday by Nielsen SoundScan. Cook, from Blue Springs, Mo., last week defeated David Archuleta by a margin of 12 million votes out of the record 97.5 million cast by viewers.

Cook plans to release an album this fall.

fashion

Saint Laurent dead at 71

PEOPLE A longtime friend and associate of Yves Saint Laurent says the famed couturier has died at his Paris home at the age of 71.

Pierre Berge says that Saint Laurent died yesterday evening following a long illness. He did not give details.

The innovative designer was an institution for decades in the world of high fashion.

He was widely considered the last of a generation that included Christian Dior and Coco Chanel and made Paris the fashion capital of the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angry Men back for more

By CHRIS ATCHISON
Metro Toronto

The verdict was delivered months ago, but it could be said that appeals launched by theatre impresario David Mirvish on behalf of Toronto theatre patrons won them a second opportunity to see the critically-acclaimed courtroom drama Twelve Angry Men.

The production, which stars theatre, film and television veteran Richard Thomas — best known for his turn as John-Boy on the long-running 1970s series The Waltons — played to packed houses at the Princess Of Wales Theatre in January and February of this year and will log the final 16 performances of its 39-city, 62-week North American run there between June 3 and 15.

"I've made a lot of movies in Canada, but I've never done a play in Canada and I know that Toronto has a long theatre history," the 56-year-old says of his lack of knowledge of Toronto's theatre scene prior to performing in the city.

"(Toronto audiences) were right in line with the best of our best audiences. The lines and little conflicts around immigration got very big responses in Toronto, bigger than in the States.

"(They were) very with it, very much like a New York audience ... it was like a gift to come back and finishing in Toronto."

Based on the 1957 telefilm written by Reginald Rose and starring Henry Fonda, Twelve Angry Men follows a group of male jurors as they decide the fate of an 18-year-old accused of killing his father. The jurors are convinced the young man is guilty and are prepared to hand down the damning verdict, until juror 8 (Thomas) begins questioning the evidence presented at the trial, eventually enlightening his fellow jurors and broadening their view of the case with his arguments that reasonable doubt could exonerate the accused.

"There were times when we were (in Toronto) that we were kind of goodwill ambassadors for the States," Thomas recalls.

"Here was a play about America, about Americans in mid-century that acknowledged our warts ... but also showed the good that we aspire to as a society and I think maybe there was some response to that."

» Twelve Angry Men begins its limited run tomorrow night at The Princess Of Wales Theatre.

more online

» To find out what new Hellboy book is a perfect fit for your home library and to read reviews of lots of new comics, check out Jonathan P. Kuehlein's comic books column, exclusively at metronews.ca.

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metro Do it daily.

Minimalist style

COLIN & JUSTIN'S INTERIOR DIVINE

Okay, okay... so it's hard to keep up with what's in and what's out, but one style that remains perennially popular — no matter what the decorating climate — is 'minimalism.' Our take, however, is rather different from other designers who create this style. And of course we know best.

What frustrates us most about 'ADAM' (Another Designer Attempting Minimalism) is the fact that results can be so hard on the eye. Sure that concrete floor is gorgeous, that Minotti sofa looks wonderfully hip and those pure white walls promote a crisp clean art gallery aesthetic, but try living in a space that's more sterile than a vet's surgery and you'll soon feel decoratively neutered.

Take our advice: warm things up. This week's Home Show demonstrates how homes are for living in. Yup, finding that elusive balance between paring back and adding more is our raison d'etre. If you crave a slick tailored feel, simply remove unnecessary elements and ensure every item serves a useful purpose. Sure, that Minotti sofa is gorgeous, but wouldn't it be better to have something custom made to suit your scheme? Try Silva Upholstery (*www.silva4home.com*) and be amazed at how affordable 'bespoke' furniture actually is — often no more than mass produced stock.

Next, break minimalist 'rules' and dress with a selection of throws and cushions. Controversial! Sure, that concrete floor is super sexy but for God's sake warm things up a little with a sexy rug by Millenia (*www.milleniacarpet.com*), Canada's best custom flooring manufacturer. Don't go overboard but at least allow yourself some comfort! This, to us, is the essence of 'soft' minimalism; don't be too strict, select things that are personal to your space and invest in good quality kit from the start. Our motto? Think TWICE by ONCE.

C and J's top six minimalist style tips:

1 Ditch that bulky TV — opt for a wall hung flat screen that makes a serious statement without cluttering floor space.

2 Unify flooring choices as you move from room to room — an easy way to make space feel bigger.

3 Low slung sofas, clean-lined cabinetry and unfussy 'pot lights' will help keep mood 'low key.'

4 White walls are achingly cool but don't be too austere — opt instead for softer 'off white' tones such as 'Pale Shadow' by Dulux. Gentler on the eye by miles.

5 Store CDs and DVDs in inexpensive boxes from Ikea — you don't need to break the bank to look organized.

6 Be selective — one good statement sculpture or art work is WAY better than an assembly of ill conceived clutter.

It's a well-worn mantra, but in some people's minimalist world, 'less is more.' As far as we're concerned, however, a little MORE is generally much better than an awful lot LESS. So go on — INDULGE. In moderation, of course!

Colin & Justin's Home Show, Tuesdays @ 11 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 p.m. on HGTV.

HGTV hosts Colin and Justin continue their mission of beautification with their Canadian design series The Home Show, airing Tuesdays at 11 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 p.m. ET on HGTV. www.hgtv.ca

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2. Dr. Tobias Funke (Arrested Development)
3. Dr. Marvin Monroe (The Simpsons)
4. Dr. Sidney Freedman (M*A*S*H)
5. Dr. Alfred Bellows (I Dream Of Jeannie)

— Rick McGinnis/Metro Toronto

Tyler explains rehab

Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler says he checked into a rehab facility in search of a "safe environment" to recover from several foot surgeries and physical therapy.

Tyler says in a statement that the surgeries were to correct long-time foot injuries resulting from his physical performances as the singer for the blues-rock band.

The 60-year-old singer was known for heavy drug and alcohol abuse in the 1970s and early 1980s. But he completed rehabilitation in 1986, after which Aerosmith enjoyed a successful revival. Tyler said doctors told him his feet would require "a few surgeries over time." He described the pain after surgery as "intense" and "greater than I'd anticipated."

"The months of rehabilitative care and the painful strain of physical therapy were traumatic," Tyler's statement said. "I really needed a safe environment to recuperate where I could shut off my phone and get back on my feet."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

legal

No felony charges for actor Farina

PEOPLE Los Angeles County prosecutors won't file felony charges against actor Dennis Farina for having a gun in his luggage at an airport last month. A spokeswoman for the district attorney's office, said there wasn't enough evidence to charge him with a felony. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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From genuine rumour to Hollywood currency

IDIOT BOX
RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

REGIME CHANGE: Nikki Finke of L.A. Weekly was the insider of choice for news during the recent Hollywood writers' strike, so it's hard not to give credence to a recent posting on her Deadline Hollywood blog that Dawn Ostroff is very likely on her way out as head of the CW network, to be replaced by Tony DiSanto, the MTV programming chief who gave us The Hills, Laguna Beach and Total Request Live, among other sources of itching, burning pain.

DiSanto, who recently insisted that he had no intention of leaving MTV after years of nurturing its instantly recognizable programming, is supposed to be denying the rumour, but no one is apparently denying Ostroff is in trouble.

The CW, a joint venture between CBS and Warner Bros. that's the prime-time home of Gossip Girl, America's Next Top Model and the upcoming revival of Beverly Hills, 90210, has apparently been holding meetings with potential new programming bosses, and DiSanto has been negotiating his deal with about as much secrecy as you can manage in the business, which is to say not much; thus the distracting denials.

Finke, for her part, isn't jazzed about the potential regime change, calling DiSanto's stable of MTV hits "swill" while noting that Ostroff "got her job by the skin of her teeth after programming as badly as she could at the old UPN and brown-nosing (CBS boss) Les Moonves." Ouch.

Finke notes that Hollywood folk are calling the Ostroff out/DiSanto in rumours "smoke, not fire," but it's customary in the business to make a great show of denying imminent change (after all, no point getting in Ostroff's bad books unnecessarily if she does, in fact, keep her job) then conceding they knew all along when the rumours prove true, accepting the logic of the new reality as if it had always been this way.

In the end, it doesn't matter, as Finke notes that "Hollywood folk fail upwards: I'm told Dawn could end up running Oprah's new cable network."

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 6/2/08	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Monarchy		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA)		House "Alone"		Durham County		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	To Be Announced		NHL Hockey Stanley Cup Final Game 5 -- Pittsburgh Penguins at Detroit Red Wings.						National
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	American Gladiators			Entourage	The Mole (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Degrassi: Next	Corner Gas	Robson Arms	Criminal Minds "Doubt"		CSI: Miami		News (N)
	218	345	11	CH	The Insider (N)	E! News	How I Met	How I Met	My Boys	Engagement	Paradise Hotel 2		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Structures de génie		La Strada ★★★★ (1954, Drame) Anthony Quinn.				Insectia (SC)
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Chun Yi
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	World's Most Amazing Videos		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Engagement	CSI: Miami		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NHL Hockey Stanley Cup Final Game 5 -- Pittsburgh Penguins at Detroit Red Wings.						News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelorette (N)				The Mole (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Big Bang Th	30 Rock	Two/Half Men	TBA	Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		House "Alone"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow		American Experience "Truman" (Part 2 of 2) (DVS)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten		Family Guy
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl
news	502	390	26	NW	News (N)	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Beckham		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		The Business of Innovation (N)		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Minnesota Twins. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey! Playoff Edition		E:60 (N)		NBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 7 -- Spurs at Lakers				
	411	457	58	OLN	Exploration	Videos	The Amazing Race 7		Mantracker		Departures "Cambodia"		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	Car Crazy (N)	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Adrenaline Proj	Futurama	Shadow Raider	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Scooby Doo	Scooby-Doo	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Team America: World Police (2004)		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	House	Confidential	Divine Design	How Clean	Kim	House
	570	580	29	MM	Most Powerful Musicians		MuchTopTens Top 10.		MuchNews	The NewMusic	PunchMuch		MuchTopTens
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Intervention		Intervention "Caylee"		The First 48		Crime 360
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Magnifica Italia	Magnifica Italia	Il Segreto di Grande Ourse		The Sopranos "Boca" (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	NoseDive	Tip of Tongue	Tip of Tongue	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		I Know My Kid's a Star		Popaganda
	575	583	38	CMT	Paul Brandt: The Dust		Paul Brandt-Heroes		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis "Blackout"		Cold Squad		Trailer Park	Billable Hours	Damages (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Cirque du Soleil's Solstrom		Invitation to the Dance ★★★ (1957, Musical) Gene Kelly.				Asylum of Spoons		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Women on Top	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	Spoiled Rotten	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		Project Catwalk		End of Leash
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Eye Spy"		Dogfights "Jet vs. Jet"		Rome			Urban Legends	Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Distraction	Punched Up	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Buy Me	Outside	Find Your Style	Property Virgin	Home to Stay	Design U	Parents House	House Hunters
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	Rush Hour 2 ★★ (2001, Action) Jackie Chan, John Lone.				Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	The Boot	Leprechaun: Back 2 tha Hood ★ (2003, Horror)				Girlfriends	Girlfriends	The Boot
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1 "Descent"		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Blood Ties (DVS)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV e2	Pre Show	2008 MTV Movie Awards From Universal City, Calif.				The Paper	Life of Ryan	Movie Awards
	618	524	54	TROP	Deal or No Deal Canada		ET Canada	What Happen?	X-Weighted "Kendra"		Are You Smarter		Deal-No Deal
	603	561	56	FOOD	Road Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover (N)		Good Eats	Perfection	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Prime Minister	Wait for God	McLeod's Daughters (N)		Divine Restor.	Recreat. Eden	Doc
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Wiggle-Learn	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Qui perd gagne (SC)		Ma Maison Rona		Monk Un inconnu arrive.		Le TVA 22 heures (N) (SC)		Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	Dominique Poirier en direct		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Club des ex	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		Homefront		American Eats "Soda"		Homefront		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	(6:15) American Venus		Stargate Atlantis		Dexter		Penn & Teller	This Am. Life	Atlantis
	305	612	306	PIX	Felicia's Journey ★★★ (1999, Drama) Bob Hoskins.				The Incredible Shrinking Man ★★★ (1957)				Blindside ★★ (1987, Drama)

critics' corner

Canada's Worst Handyman
It's not clear how knowing how to sew makes someone a handyman or woman, but in this new episode, the contestants are challenged to make curtains. Logically, most fail miserably. Heck, most contractors, plumbers and electricians probably don't know how to sew fancy curtains or pillows. Also tackled are building a closet and installing wall sconces. 10 PM on DIS

Invitation to the Dance
Silence! There's no speech in this 1956 musical directed, written and starring Gene Kelly. But it doesn't matter. Three separate stories are told entirely in dance, with the inventive sets and costumes helping to convey meaning. Belita, Igor Youskevitch, Carol Haney and David Kasday also star. 8 PM on BVO

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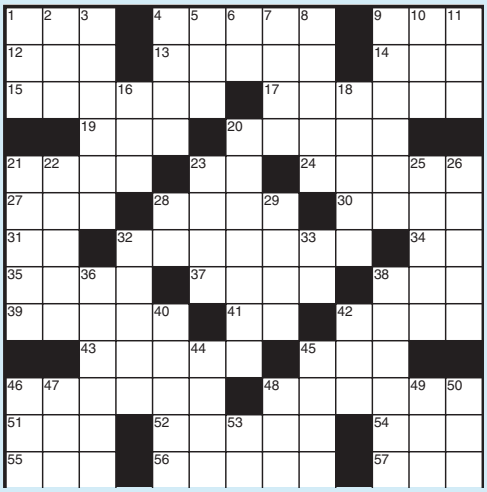

down

1 Lummox
2 "Road movie" locale
3 Tree nymphs
4 Fluctuate
5 Suppositions
6 Yes, to Pedro
7 Ensnare
8 Fable writer
9 For men and women
10 One-liner
11 Biddy
16 Coast Guard off.
18 Stand in good —
20 Nest egg
21 Forms droplets
22 Yeah (hyph.)
23 Destiny
25 Visored caps
26 Venetian blinds
28 N.Y. neighbor
29 Huron neighbor
32 Aluminum company
33 Mag exec
36 Swab's target
38 Car source
40 Gold unit
42 "Mad Max" Gibson
44 Caligula's nephew
45 Piano parts
46 However
47 Flight board info
48 Wretched
49 Prior to
50 Blue
53 Egyptian sun god

across

1 California's Fort —
4 Panorama
9 Gross!
12 Balloon filler
13 Eager
14 Glasgow turndown
15 Lobbies
17 Post
19 — day now
20 Locates
21 Leafs out
23 Musical note
24 Sneaks a look
27 Querying sounds
28 Neanderthal home
30 Figure-skating jump
31 Sigh of content
32 Robed
34 Informal parent
35 Oater showdown
37 Sooner city
38 Morse signal
39 Rough cabin
41 Fridge maker
42 Clutter
43 Reddish-brown horses
45 Green parrot
46 Watch out!
48 Beaux opposites
51 Ms. Hagen
52 Assortment
54 Geologic division
55 Price add-on
56 Insect eaters
57 Florid

previous answer

H	E	Y			H	A	T		A	L	M	S
A	G	U	A		A	N	A		L	O	O	P
Y	A	M	S		N	O	B		K	I	T	E
	D	A	C	R	O	N		J	A	D	E	D
			O	U	I		A	I	L			
S	C	O	T	T		E	R	M	I	N	E	S
R	I	D			A	L	F			A	H	A
I	D	E	A	L	L	Y		G	Y	P	S	Y
			F	O	E		L	A	O			
E	V	E	R	T		G	E	I	G	E	R	
L	A	R	A		A	I	M		I	D	O	L
S	I	A	M		F	L	O		S	I	L	O
A	N	T	E		T	A	N			T	E	X

HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
Unruly people are involved in a messy scheme. Laugh and your doubts will be lessened. Keep bad news you hear to yourself.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
Do some personal pampering. You'll make some pleasing contacts. Vindictiveness will not be acceptable to you.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Love will grow after a secret is revealed. Stay away from bad tempered fools. Avoid too much fuss and bother.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
You can shake things up but a man will attend to his duty. A power play leads to better bonding. A man is lost in the wrong place.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
A slacker seeks a miracle. A dramatic soap opera will make you laugh. Don't cater too much to a whiny hypochondriac.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
An open friend shares incredible information. Don't leave your stuff in a public place. Be firmer with indignant people.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
Gentleness may not limit a confrontation. You'll emerge unscathed from a stressful situation. A friend will try to lighten the mood.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
Reach out to someone you need to know. You can avoid being hurt by an affair. Doing the right thing will delight an accomplice.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
An egotist will shock you by taking the blame. A proud man won't be comforted. You'll have to watch some boring antics.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
A whiner will make you lose your temper. Don't try to talk when you're too busy. A comment is misunderstood by a big shot.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
You're attractive to others no matter what you do. Someone troubles your mind. Facts are presented by a stable person.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
A desirable object comes into your hands. A friend has a touch of resentment. A child seeks warmth and tenderness. AVATAR VENUS

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		9				2		
		8	1		9	5		
2				6				4
	1	7	5		2	3	4	
	9	4	7		8	6	5	
1				3				6
		3	6		4	9		
		6				8		

instructions

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

6	1	5	4	2	9	8	3	7
7	4	8	5	6	3	9	2	1
9	3	2	8	1	7	6	4	5
3	8	9	6	5	4	7	1	2
2	7	4	1	3	8	5	9	6
1	5	6	7	9	2	4	8	3
4	9	1	3	7	5	2	6	8
8	6	7	2	4	1	3	5	9
5	2	3	9	8	6	1	7	4

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Afternoon	Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Partly cloudy. 24°	40% Showers. 13°	60% Rain. 15°/11°	40% Showers. 17°/11°	Sunny. 20°/12°

Temperature
Normals
High: 21.3°
Low: 9.1°

Records
High: 29.4°/1943
Low: 1.7°/1964

Sunrise: 5:39 a.m.
Sunset: 8:54 p.m.
Moonrise: 4:08 a.m.
Moonset: 8:08 p.m.

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celebritybuzz

Cruise's custom shoes?

Tom Cruise may have found a way to get closer to his two-inches-taller wife, Katie Holmes – customized Nike sneakers with superthick soles, starmagazine.com reports.

"Tom has always been touchy about his height," a friend of the actor tells Star. "It doesn't help that he tends to marry women who are taller than he is."

The 5'7" megastar probably hit on the idea of custom kicks after hearing BFF Will Smith rave about the pair his 5'-tall wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, designed for herself.

"Tom's shoes look like they add one extra inch to his height," says the source. Metro News Services

Bryan Bedder /Getty Images

Third time lucky?

Charlie Sheen wed Brooke Mueller in small ceremony in Beverly Hills Friday night, the couple's rep confirmed to usmagazine.com.

Guests included father Martin Sheen and brother Emilio Estevez as well as Eric Dane and his wife Rebecca Gayheart.

Sheen's daughters Sam, 4, and Lola, 3, with ex-wife Denise Richards were flower girls. Richards did not attend.

This is the third marriage for the Two and a Half Men star, 42 and the first for Mueller, 30, a real estate agent. Contrary to online reports, Mueller "is not pregnant," a rep for the couple told Usmagazine.com.

"I honestly think they're a match made in heaven," Richards told Us Weekly recently. Metro News Services

Frederick M. Brown/Getty Images

Red hot for Red Winger

Bryan Bedder /Getty Images

Actress Kristen Bell has harboured a crush on hockey star Chris Osgood since her youth – and insists she would pick the Canadian goaltender over Hollywood hunk Brad Pitt any day.

The Forgetting Sarah Marshall star grew up as a hockey-obsessed tomboy in Detroit, Mich., and admits her "first crush" was on the Detroit Red Wings sportsman, reports People.com.

Bell, 27, says, "Brad Pitt be damned – he had nothing on Osgood's rookie skill and sad eyes.

"There was actually a day in high school when I wrote on a name tag 'Mrs. Osgood' and wore it the whole day. I really thought we were perfect for each other. I'd love to meet him – and probably apologize that things never worked out." Metro News Services

Lindsay ditching dad again: Reports

Are Lindsay Lohan and her father, Michael Lohan, estranged once agan? The New York Post's Page Six column is reporting that the starlet left the Peninsula Hotel in New York on Wednesday last week (where she'd checked in with galpal Samantha Ronson the day before) because she knew her father was looking for her.

"Michael found out where Lindsay was going to be and went to find her," an insider tells the paper. "She was really freaked out by it because she has no interest in seeing her father."

Lindsay apparently went to have dinner with her mom and sister instead – leaving her dad at the hotel. "Michael was staking out the lobby and waiting for Lindsay to make an appearance," reveals the insider.

Metro News Services

Noel Vasquez/Getty Images

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Dunst depressed or chemically dependant?

An insider has revealed that Cirque Lodge doesn't treat patients suffering from depression alone, casting doubts on actress Kirsten Dunst having claimed she went there to seek treatment for the condition, starmagazine.com reports.

Dunst had also denied she was being treated for a drug or alcohol problem.

"I went there for depression ... I was struggling, and I had the opportunity to go somewhere and take care of myself," Dunst said.

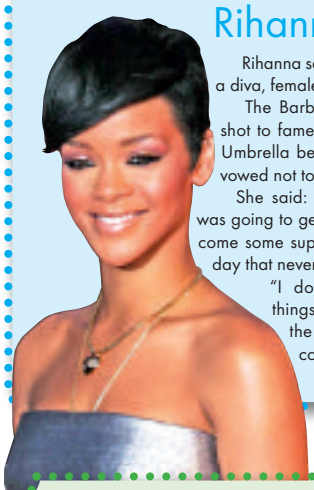
According to the insider, however, patients at the Sundance, Utah, facility, must have some kind of chemical dependency.

"They would refer you somewhere else if it's just depression," the insider explained.

Metro News Services

Evan Agostini /Getty Images

Rihanna no diva



Gareth Cattermole /Getty Images

Rihanna says she will never become a diva, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Barbados-born singer – who shot to fame last year after her song Umbrella became a global hit – has vowed not to become too egotistical.

She said: "People really thought I was going to get out of my head and become some super diva chick and to this day that never happened.

"I don't ask for extravagant things like flowers flown in, or the room to be all one colour." Metro News Services

Amy makes dubious return

Showbizireland/Getty Images

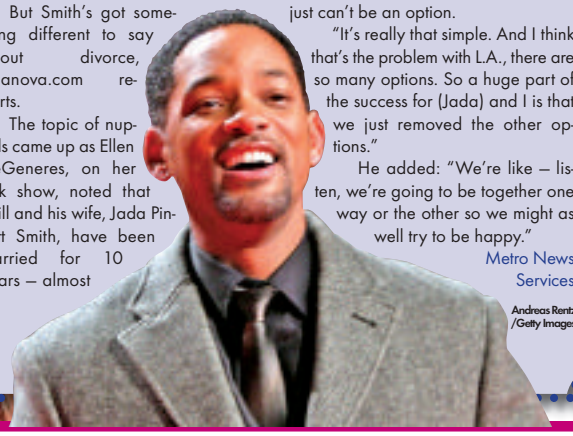
Singer Amy Winehouse was an hour late to her first post-rehab concert Friday night, E! News Online reports.

The Grammy-winning soul chanteuse performed at the sold-out Rock in Rio music festival in Lisbon, Portugal.

Winehouse's voice cracked throughout her performance. She had visible cuts on her left arm and a bandage on her right hand. The trouble-prone diva is famous for her tardiness, show cancellations, offstage antics and rehab stints. Just last week, her father accepted a prestigious British award on her behalf because she was late to the ceremony.

Metro News Services

Smith dishes on lasting love



Andreas Rentz /Getty Images

The D-word is often slung around the Hollywood Hills and now even Will Smith has been uttering the syllables.

But Smith's got something different to say about divorce, Ananova.com reports.

The topic of nuptials came up as Ellen DeGeneres, on her talk show, noted that Will and his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, have been married for 10 years – almost unheard of in Hollywood.

Will got all deep and meaningful on the subject: "What I found is divorce just can't be an option.

"It's really that simple. And I think that's the problem with L.A., there are so many options. So a huge part of the success for (Jada) and I is that we just removed the other options."

He added: "We're like – listen, we're going to be together one way or the other so we might as well try to be happy."

Metro News Services

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